Remarks/Argum nts:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-11 remain in the application. Claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended.

In item 4 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-11 have been rejected as being obvious over Harmon et al. (5,361,198) in view of Eryurek et al. (6,119,047) and further in view of Lang (5,745,539) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended to better define the invention. Support for the changes can be found by referring to Fig. 2, for example, which shows that the microprocessor and the logic circuit receive the incoming data stream 22 and 23 in parallel.

The invention as now defined by the independent claims is not taught or suggested by the prior art references Hermann et al. (U.S. 5,361,198, D1), Eryurek et al. (U.S. 6,119,047, D2) and Lang (U.S. 5,745,539, D3).

Even according to the Examiner's explanations in the above-mentioned Office action, the somewhat random combination of

three documents only results in an electro-technical system, where a microprocessor and a logic circuit can be used. However, any comprehensible motivation as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would even broaden an electro-technical system having a microprocessor and a logic circuit, is missing. Furthermore even according to the Examiner's statements, it cannot be seen how the accumulation of the cited components achieved by the random combination of the three cited documents, could supply information towards their precise connection relative to each other or the like.

The inventive concept now includes providing a parallel connection at the data stream side of a microprocessor for the purposes of both processing commands and also for the priority of commands from a control system. The essential components provided thereby, i.e., the microprocessor and the ready-wired logic circuit, enable a ready-wired component and a microprocessor to be unified with a common priority component, due to their parallel connection at the data stream side. Due to the mentioned combination of the logic circuit for ensuring an immediate processing of safety-relevant commands with the microprocessor, the priority component is thus suitable for ensuring operation-relevant commands particularly for pre-processing of signals or operational commends for a selective processing of safety-relevant aspects for ensuring

particularly high safety standards and for the prioritizing of command sequences. Furthermore, the parallel connection of the microprocessor with the logic circuit achieves a particularly small construction volume with a simultaneously very low power loss during operation of the component, by means of which a plurality of similar priority components can be disposed on the construction space required for a common priority component. Furthermore, due to the parallel connection at the data stream side of the operation-relevant microprocessor with the safety-relevant logic circuit and the redundant data stream resulting therefrom, the high safety standards which have to be maintained with a use in nuclear areas, are maintained with special reliability.

The concept now specified by the independent claims thus not only aims at using the microprocessor and logic circuit in a simple way, i.e., essentially a freely programmable and a ready-wired component. Instead, the new wording also specifies in which relation to each other and in view of which interaction these components are to be suitably connected with each other. In other words: the now specified object of the application is not simply exhausted in the enumeration of the components which are considered to be essential, but furthermore also specifies their connections relative to each other at the data stream side.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 7, or 8. Claims 1, 7, and 8 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1 or 8, they are believed to be patentable as well.

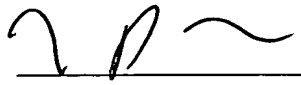
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, he is respectfully requested to telephone counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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For Applicants

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